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10/573,476

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EXAMINER

QUADER, FAZLUL

ART UNIT

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/573,476	Applicant(s) KASHIWAGI ET AL.	
	Examiner FAZLUL QUADER	Art Unit 2164	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 03 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 August 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4,5,8-11 and 14-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4,5,8-11 and 14-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Claims 1, 4-5, 8-11 and 14-17 are pending in this application.
2. Examiner acknowledges applicant's amendment on 08/01/2008.
3. Claims 1 and 11 have been amended on 08/01/2008.

35 USC § 101

4. Rejections for claims 12 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. 101 are withdrawn because these claims have been cancelled by the applicant.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1, 4-5, 8-11 and 14-17 of the current application (effective filing date: Mar. 24, 2006) are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Baxter et al.

Art Unit: 2164

(US 20030229637; pub. date: Dec. 11, 2003), hereinafter “Baxter” in view of Horn (US 20040177319; pub. date: Sep. 09, 2004).

7. As to claim 1, Baxter discloses, a file managing apparatus for managing files recorded on a recording medium by resorting to an index file recorded on said recording medium ([0012]);

wherein said index file is formed by a series of entries constituted by blocks of extract information about said files, said extract information being arranged to correspond with said files ([0100]);

wherein hierarchy management information which is set for each of said entries and which primarily points to another entry is provided to express a hierarchical structure of said files recorded on said recording medium ([0007]); and

wherein an entry for temporary management is provided under which a file to be deleted is stored temporarily ([0168]);

wherein, in said index file, said extract information is grouped by attribute into a thumbnail image group which is a group of thumbnail images, a text group which is a group of titles in text, and a property group which is a group of properties for managing

Art Unit: 2164

said thumbnail image group and said text group (Baxter: [0101]; [0127]);

wherein in said property group, entries concerning said files are furnished with entry-related management information pointing to the corresponding entries in said thumbnail image group and said text group, and with file-related management information pointing to the corresponding files (Baxter: [0101]; [0127]);

wherein, when deletion of one of said file is instructed (Baxter: [0007]), said file managing apparatus changing the hierarchy management information which is set for the entry of said file to be deleted, in such a manner that said hierarchy management information with keeping said entry-related management information and said file-related management information which is set for said file to be deleted unchanged regardless of the instruction of the deletion (abstract; [0007]; [0168]), and

wherein said file managing apparatus includes a display unit to display said extract information about said entry furnished with said hierarchy management information which has been changed so as to point to said entry for temporary management, so that said file managing apparatus accepts processing of the file associated with said entry about which said extract information is displayed_([0127]; [0144]-[0145]; [0149]);

Art Unit: 2164

Baxter, however, does not explicitly disclose, “temporary management for storage”.

Horn, on the other hand, discloses, “temporary management” for storage (Horn: [0191]).

Both Baxter and Horn are of the same field of endeavor, they specifically teach file management (Baxter: [0001]; Horn: [0188]).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to incorporate the teachings of Horn into Baxter of method and apparatus for safeguarding files to have a useful method, to create a database storage, organization and retrieval systems. (Horn: [0002], lines 5-6).

8. As to claim 2, the claim is rejected by the applicant.

9. As to claim 3, the claim is rejected by the applicant.

10. As to claim 4, Baxter as modified discloses, the file managing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, given an instruction to delete the file associated with the entry furnished with said management information which primarily points to another entry and which has been changed to point to said entry for temporary management,

Art Unit: 2164

said file managing apparatus deletes the corresponding entry from said index file and the corresponding file from said recording medium (Baxter: [0127]; [0144]-[0145]).

11. As to claim 5, Baxter as modified discloses, the file managing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, given an instruction to restore the file associated with the entry furnished with said management information which has been changed to point to said entry for temporary management, said file managing apparatus establishes said hierarchy management information in such a manner as to point to a predetermined entry which is an entry determined by a user in advance or an entry designating by the user (Baxter: abstract; claim1).

12. As to claim 6, the claim has been cancelled by the applicant.

13. As to claim 7, the claim has been cancelled by the applicant.

14. As to claim 8, Baxter as modified discloses, the file managing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said file managing apparatus, when changing said hierarchy management information in such a manner as to point to said entry for temporary management, records a date of the change to said index file ([0047]; [0050]).

15. As to claim 9, Baxter as modified discloses, the file managing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said file managing apparatus checks said date of said

Art Unit: 2164

change against the current time of day and, depending on an outcome of the check, deletes the corresponding entry from said index file and the corresponding file from said recording medium ([0050]; [0071]).

16. As to claim 10, Baxter as modified discloses, the file managing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said file managing apparatus sets an entry for a virtual folder with date of the change in such a manner as to point to said entry_ for temporary-management and changes said hierarchy management information in such a manner as to point to said entry for the virtual folder (abstract; [0007]; [0168]).

17. As to claim 11, Baxter discloses, a file managing method for managing files recorded on a recording medium by resorting to an index file recorded on said recording medium ([0012]);

wherein said index file is formed by a series of entries constituted by blocks of extract information about said files, said extract information being arranged to correspond with said files ([0100]);

wherein hierarchy management information which is set for each of said entries and which primarily points to another entry is provided to express a hierarchical structure of said files recorded on said recording medium ([0007]); and

wherein an entry for temporary management is provided under which a file to be deleted is stored temporarily ([0168]);

wherein, in said index file, said extract information is grouped by attribute into a thumbnail image group which is a group of thumbnail images, a text group which is a group of titles in text, and a property group which is a group of properties for managing said thumbnail image group and said text group (Baxter: [0101]; [0127]);

wherein in said property group, entries concerning said files are furnished with entry-related management information pointing to the corresponding entries in said thumbnail image group and said text group, and with file-related management information pointing to the corresponding files (Baxter: [0101]; [0127]);

said file managing method comprising the step of changing the management information which is set for the entry of said file to be deleted, in such a manner that said management information points to said entry for temporary management (abstract; [0007]; [0168]).

Baxter, however, does not explicitly disclose, “temporary management for storage”.

Horn, on the other hand, discloses, “temporary management”, with keeping said entry related information and said file-related management information unchanged when deletion of said file is instructed (Horn: [0191]; abstract; [0168]).

Both Baxter and Horn are of the same field of endeavor, they specifically teach file management (Baxter: [0001]; Horn: [0188]).

It would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant’s invention to incorporate the teachings of Horn into Baxter of method and apparatus for safeguarding files to have a useful method, to create a database storage, organization and retrieval systems. (Horn: [0002], lines 5-6).

18. As to claim 12, the claim has been cancelled by the applicant.

19. As to claim 13, the claim has been cancelled by the applicant.

20. As to claim 14, Baxter discloses the file managing apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein said file managing apparatus checks said date of said change against the current time of day and depending on an outcome of the check, deletes the corresponding entry and said entry for the virtual folder from said index file, and deletes the corresponding file from said recording medium (Baxter: [0027]; [0035]; [0051]; [0007]; Horn: [0105]).

21. As to claim 15, Baxter discloses the file managing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the corresponding file is deleted from said recording medium according to a lapse of a predetermined time from date of the change (Baxter: abstract; predetermined selection criteria; [0120]).

22. As to claim 16, Baxter discloses the managing apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the corresponding file is deleted from said recording medium according to a lapse of a predetermined time from date of the change (Baxter: [0120]).

23. As to claim 17, the claim is rejected for the same reason as the claim 11. In addition, the file managing method according to claim 11, further including a step of displaying said extract information about said entry furnished with said hierarchy management information which has been changed so as to point to said entry for temporary management, so that said file managing apparatus accepts processing of the file associated with said entry about which said extract information is displayed (Baxter: [0127]; [0144]-[0145]; [0149]);

Prior art made of record

24. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Ginter et al. (US 20020048369) teach systems and methods for secure transaction management and electronic right protection.

Takiguchi et al. (US 20020032696) teach Intuitive hierarchical time-series data display method and system.

Response to Arguments

25. Claims 1, 4, 5, 8-11, and 14-17 are currently pending in this application, with claims 1 and 11 being independent.

Applicant's Arguments: Claims 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 12 and 13 have been canceled by the foregoing amendment. Therefore, the rejection is now moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Art Unit: 2164

Examiner's Response: As a preliminary matter, most of the features of claims 2 and 3 have been incorporated into claim 1 and claims 2 and 3 have been Canceled.

Claim 1 is directed to a file managing apparatus for managing files recorded on a recording medium by resorting to an index file recorded on said recording medium; wherein said index file is formed by a series of entries constituted by blocks of extract information about said files, said extract information being arranged to correspond with said files; wherein hierarchy management information which is set for each of said entries and which primarily points to another entry is provided to express a hierarchical structure of said files recorded on said recording medium; and wherein an entry for temporary management is provided under which a file to be deleted is stored temporarily; wherein, in said index file, said extract information is grouped by attribute into a thumbnail image group which is a group of thumbnail images, a text group which is a group of titles in text, and a property group which is a group of properties for managing said thumbnail image group and said text group; wherein in said property group, entries concerning said files are furnished with entry-related management information pointing to the corresponding entries in said thumbnail image group and said text group, and with file-related management information pointing to the corresponding files; wherein said file managing apparatus changes, with keeping said entry-related management information and said file-related management information unchanged regardless of the instruction of the deletion, the hierarchy management information which is set for the entry of said file to be deleted, in such a manner that said hierarchy management information points to said entry for temporary management;

Art Unit: 2164

and wherein said file managing apparatus includes a display unit to display said extract information about said entry furnished with said hierarchy management information which has been changed so as to point to said entry for temporary management, so that said file managing apparatus accepts processing of the file associated with said entry about which said extract information is displayed. Baxter et al. arguably discloses a method and apparatus for safeguarding files. Horn arguably discloses a computer system for automatic organization, indexing and viewing of information from multiple sources. However, Baxter fails to disclose, teach or suggest a use of an index file as recited in claim 1, in which in said index file; said extract information is grouped by attribute into a thumbnail image group which is a group of thumbnail images, a text group which is a group of titles in text, and a property group which is a group of properties for managing said thumbnail image group and said text group, and wherein in said property group, entries concerning said files are furnished with entry-related management information pointing to the corresponding entries in said thumbnail image group and said text group, and with file-related management information pointing to the corresponding files. In regard to this point, the Office Action asserts that Baxter discloses the file management apparatus according to claim 1, wherein in said index file, said extract information is grouped by attribute into a group of thumbnail images, a group of files in text, and a group of properties for managing said thumbnail image group and said text group (Baxter: [0100]). However, at paragraph [0100], Baxter only discloses "e. Extraction and storing searchable text from eligible documents." Also, at paragraph [0012], Baxter discloses "[t]he invention accomplishes its tasks by providing

Art Unit: 2164

a non-intrusive (i.e. requiring minimal client intervention) method of collecting and packaging one or more documents (computer files) into a standardized format, securely recording evidence of the package, and indexing and storing the package for later retrieval." Thus, Baxter does not disclose, teach or suggest that extract information is grouped by attribute, and that entries concerning said files are furnished with entry-related management information pointing to the corresponding entries in said thumbnail image group and said text group, and with file-related management information.

Moreover, Baxter does not disclose, teach or suggest that "said file managing apparatus changes, with keeping said entry-related management information and said file-related management information unchanged regardless of the instruction of the deletion, the hierarchy management information which is set for the entry of said file to be deleted, in such a manner that said hierarchy management information points to said entry for temporary management." In regard to this point, the Office Action alleges that Baxter discloses "... said file managing apparatus, when changing said management information primarily pointing to another entry in such a manner as to point to said entry for temporary management, keeps said entry-related management information and said file-related management information unchanged regardless of the instruction of the deletion (Baxter: abstract; [0! 68]). Baxter discloses that "[a] computer implemented method for safeguarding files, comprising the steps of designating a location on a first computer for storage of files to be safeguarded, selecting certain of the files to be safeguarded from the location based upon predetermined selection criteria, copying the selected files to be safeguarded to a second computer, deleting the selected files from

Art Unit: 2164

the first computer, processing the selected files to be safeguarded on the second computer, and storing the selected files to be safeguarded in a restricted access database. In a second embodiment, the file is copied to a second computer, but not deleted from the first computer, in addition to all other steps of the method. The invention also includes an apparatus for carrying out the methods of the invention." (Baxter, Abstract). However, in the first embodiment (described in the abstract of Baxter), the selected files are copied to be safeguarded to a second computer, and the selected files are deleted from the first computer. Thus, Baxter does not disclose, teach or suggest that said entry-related management information and said file-related management information is kept unchanged regardless of the instruction of the deletion. In the second embodiment of Baxter, the selected files are not deleted but copied to the second computer. However, in the second embodiment of Baxter, deletion is not instructed. Further, at paragraph [0168], Baxter discloses "1. Computer programs that generate documents needing protection store or make duplicates of them (possibly temporarily) at predictable location(s) on the client's network." Thus, although Baxter discloses duplicates of documents are stored or made duplicates (possible temporarily), it fails to disclose that "said file managing apparatus changes, with keeping said entry-related management information and said file-related management information unchanged regardless of the instruction of the deletion, the hierarchy management information." Please note that in Baxter, details of the temporary management for storage are not disclosed. Also, although Horn discloses temporary management for storage, it fails to disclose, teach or suggest that "said file managing apparatus

Art Unit: 2164

changes, with keeping said entry-related management information and said file-related management information unchanged regardless of the instruction of the deletion, the hierarchy management information." Please note that in Horn details of the temporary management for storage are not disclosed. Thus, none of the applied art discloses, teaches or suggests that "said file managing apparatus changes, with keeping said entry-related management information and said file-related management information unchanged regardless of the instruction of the deletion, the hierarchy management information which is set for the entry of said file to be deleted and which primarily points to another entry, in such a manner that said hierarchy management information points to said entry for temporary management."

Examiner's response: Baxter recites, in [0039] A Software Agent is a computer program or set of computer programs that perform an unattended, automated process on a computer system either continuously, at scheduled intervals, or when triggered by some event. In the abstract, Baxter recites: A computer implemented method for safeguarding files, comprising the steps of designating a location on a first computer for storage of files to be safeguarded, selecting certain of the files to be safeguarded from the location based upon predetermined selection criteria, copying the selected files to be safeguarded to a second computer, deleting the selected files from the first computer, processing the selected files to be safeguarded on the second computer, and storing the selected files to be safeguarded in a restricted access database. In a second embodiment, the file is copied to a second computer, but not deleted from the

Art Unit: 2164

first computer, in addition to all other steps of the method. The invention also includes an apparatus for carrying out the methods of the invention.

Moreover, in paragraph [0051], Horn discloses, dynamic Queries: Another function of the inventive MFS-configured computer system provides novel ways to show relationships between information objects based on shared properties by querying the MFS metadata and creating links dynamically, including but not limited to matching key phrases in an object's textual properties; matching dates and times, including date and time ranges or exact matches; filtering on sizes, ordering, or type; and so forth.

As explained above, in the office action, Baxter discloses, a file managing apparatus for managing files recorded on a recording medium by resorting to an index file recorded on said recording medium ([0012]); wherein said index file is formed by a series of entries constituted by blocks of extract information about said files, said extract information being arranged to correspond with said files ([0100]); wherein hierarchy management information which is set for each of said entries and which primarily points to another entry is provided to express a hierarchical structure of said files recorded on said recording medium ([0007]); and wherein an entry for temporary management is provided under which a file to be deleted is stored temporarily ([0168]); wherein, in said index file, said extract information is grouped by attribute into a thumbnail image group which is a group of thumbnail images, a text group which is a group of titles in text, and a property group which is a group of properties for managing said thumbnail image

Art Unit: 2164

group and said text group (Baxter: [0101]; [0127]); wherein in said property group, entries concerning said files are furnished with entry-related management information pointing to the corresponding entries in said thumbnail image group and said text group, and with file-related management information pointing to the corresponding files (Baxter: [0101]; [0127]); wherein said file managing apparatus changing the hierarchy management information which is set for the entry of said file to be deleted, in such a manner that said hierarchy management information with keeping said entry-related management information and said file- related management information unchanged regardless of the instruction of the deletion(abstract; [0168]), and wherein said file managing apparatus includes a display unit to display said extract information about said entry furnished with said hierarchy management information which has been changed so as to point to said entry for temporary management, so that said file managing apparatus accepts processing of the file associated with said entry about which said extract information is displayed ([0127]; [0144]-[0145]; [0149]); Baxter, however, does not explicitly disclose, “temporary management” for storage. Horn, on the other hand, discloses, “temporary management” for storage (Horn: [0191]).

Applicant’s arguments: Claim 11: Similarly to claim 1, Baxter fails to disclose, teach or suggest that "in said index file, said extract information is grouped by attribute into a thumbnail image group which is a group of thumbnail images, a text group which is a group of titles in text, and a property group which is a group of properties for managing said thumbnail image group and said text group; wherein in said property group, entries

Art Unit: 2164

concerning said files are furnished with entry-related management information pointing to the corresponding entries in said thumbnail image group and said text group, and with file-related management information pointing to the corresponding files; said file managing method comprising the step of changing the hierarchy management information which is set for the entry of said file to be deleted, in such a manner that said hierarchy management information points to said entry for temporary management, with keeping said entry-related management information and said file-related management information unchanged regardless of the instruction of the deletion."

Examiner's response: The claim 11 can be rejected for the same reasons as mentioned above for claim 1.

Applicant's arguments: Newly Added claims: By the foregoing amendment, Applicants have added claims 14-17 in order to claim various features of the invention. Since claims 14-17 depend on the respective base claims 1 and !1, they are allowable for at least same reasons that the respective base claims are allowable. Therefore, allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Examiner's response: The newly added claims are being rejected for the reasons mentioned earlier in this office action.

Contact Information

26. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to FAZLUL QUADER whose telephone number is (571)270-1905. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-5 Alternate Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles Rones can be reached on 571-272-4085. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

FAZLUL QUADER
Examiner
Art Unit 2164

/FQ/
10/03/2008

Application/Control Number: 10/573,476
Art Unit: 2164

Page 21

/Sathyanarayan Pannala/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2164